

I am the Station Manager of Northwest Public Radio, a network of 13 public radio stations based in Pullman, Washington. I am writing to support the proposal to authorize supplemental audio channel capability for digital radio. HD Radio's improved sound quality and elimination of distorting interference are important factors that will motivate us to transition to digital broadcasting. However, the decisive factor for my stations is the capability to serve supplemental audio programming (or "multiplexing" to use the Commission's term.) We believe the use of supplemental audio is integral to our public service mission and enables us to expand programming to meet listener needs that are either underserved or not served at all.

Thank you for considering my comments in your decision.

Roger Johnson
Station Manager
Northwest Public Radio
Pullman, Washington